

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files, comprising:
 - a network access interface through which access to a data network may be attained;
 - a processing module configured to search the data network for a first multimedia file and to return information including an identifier of said first multimedia file, a first location of said first multimedia file and a first datum relating to a first schedule of the availability of said first multimedia file, wherein said processing module is further configured to categorize said first multimedia file and create first categorization information relating to said first multimedia file;
 - wherein said processing module is configured to search the data network for a second multimedia file and to return information including a second identifier of said second multimedia file, a second location of said second multimedia file and a second datum relating to a second schedule of the availability of said second multimedia file, wherein said processing module is further configured to categorize said second multimedia file and create second categorization information relating to said second multimedia file;
 - wherein said processing module, said first location, and said second location are situated within distinct domains within the data network;
 - a selection interface in communication with said processing module which provides for presentation of the returned information, and is configured to receive and process a selection for accessing a selected multimedia file from the data network and compile a download schedule;
 - and
 - a file download device in communication with the selection interface which, based on the

download schedule, automatically accesses said first multimedia file at said location through said network access interface and downloads the selected multimedia file.

2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1 further including a centralized location on the data network employable to search the data network for the a-second multimedia file, receive information including the second a-identifier of said second multimedia file, the second a-location of said second multimedia file, the second a-datum relating to the second a schedule of availability of said second multimedia file and the second categorization information relating to said second multimedia file, and provide said second categorization information to the processing module.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1 wherein the data network is the Internet.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the interface, processing module, selection interface, and download device are configured on a personal computer.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of: the processing module, the selection interface, and the file download device are configured as plugins in a web browser installed in the personal computer.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the selection interface includes at least one of:

a first selection for real time play of said first multimedia file which is downloaded; and

a second selection for storing in a memory said first multimedia file which is downloaded in memory.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein an interface is provided for restricting categories of multimedia files to be presented by the selection interface.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6 further including a memory to

which said first multimedia file may be downloaded.

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the system includes a media player for playing said first multimedia file in real time.

10. (Currently amended) A method of retrieving multimedia files over a data network from a remote site in connection with the data network, comprising the steps of:

providing a central processor for searching a plurality of multimedia websites ~~website~~ for a plurality of multimedia files ~~file~~ and a schedule of the availability of said plurality of multimedia files ~~file~~, categorizing said plurality of multimedia files ~~file~~, and creating a listing containing information relating to said plurality of multimedia files ~~file~~;

wherein said plurality of multimedia websites searched comprise at least two websites in distinct domains of the data network;

presenting an interactive interface which includes the listing and through which individual selections may be made for downloading the multimedia files from ~~the~~ at least one of the plurality of multimedia websites ~~website~~;

receiving an input through the interactive interface selecting a particular number of the plurality of multimedia files from the listing;

compiling a download schedule based on the received input, wherein the schedule includes a description of the multimedia file selected, day and time for the download, and download information, including the domain; and

based on the input received through the interface, accessing and downloading over the data network, the selected multimedia files from the selected multimedia websites ~~remote sites~~.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising at least one of the following additional steps:

storing the multimedia files in memory; and

playing the selected multimedia files.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein only a predetermined number of multimedia files may be stored in memory.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the multimedia files are retrieved according to a time schedule.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the data network is the Internet.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented): The method of claim 13 wherein any scheduling conflicts between the downloading of multimedia files are detected and the downloading is rescheduled as necessary to resolve conflicts.

17. (Original): The method of claim 10 wherein the listing is created based on topical categories.

18. (Original): The method of claim 17 wherein the topical categories are amended based on the received inputs.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the listing is created and transmitted automatically on a periodic basis.

20. (Currently amended) A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files, comprising:

a network access interface through which access to a data network may be attained;

a scheduler configured to search a plurality of distinct websites ~~website~~ for a multimedia file, obtain a schedule of availability of said multimedia file, categorize said multimedia file and create a first list containing information about said multimedia file;

a selection interface in communication with said scheduler which provides for presentation of said first list to a user, and is configured to receive and process user inputs for accessing multimedia files from said website and compile a user download schedule; and

a file download device in communication with said selection interface, which, based on said user download schedule, automatically accesses said selected multimedia file through said network access interface.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein said scheduler is further configured to receive a second list created by an entity in the data network, different than any of the plurality of distinct websites ~~said website~~ searched for said multimedia file, said second list including an identifier of a multimedia file from said entity in the data network and wherein said scheduler is also configured to receive a schedule, created by said entity in the data network, of the availability of said multimedia file, from said entity in the data network.